

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03211 162329Z
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UNGA, UNSC, JA
SUBJECT: UN FINANCES: JAPAN'S DESIRE TO BE CONSULTED ON
FINANCES

REF: USUN 3178

1. JAPANESE COUNSELOR ONDA CALLED ON POLMIN AUGUST 16 TO FOLLOW UP CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL. ONDA SAID TOKYO HAD REPLIED TO HIS MESSAGE CONCERNING HIS EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH POLMIN ON FINANCING OF PEACEKEEPING WITH TWO SUGGESTIONS. THEY HAD PROPOSED THAT THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE US AND JAPANESE MISSIONS BE MORE SYSTEMATIZED AND HAD URGED THAT CONTACTS WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON PEACEKEEPING QUESTIONS BE ON AN INFORMAL RATHER THAN FORMAL BASIS. TOKYO RECOGNIZED THE DIFFICULTY THE SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE IN DETERMINING WHICH COUNTRIES OTHER THAN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. PLACING THE CONSULTATIONS ON AN INFORMAL, BILATERAL BASIS WOULD, THEY THOUGHT, AVOID THIS PROBLEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03211 162329Z

2. POLMIN EXPLAINED THAT USUN HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING A US APPROACH TO THE SECRETARIAT AS REQUESTED BY JAPAN. HE EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN'S DESIRE TO BE CONSULTED WAS FULLY UNDERSTOOD, BUT WE HAVE SOME CONCERN, AS MAYNES MADE CLEAR IN TOKYO, OVER THE DANGER OF UNDERMINING THE CONCEPT OF THE OBLIGATORY NATURE OF SECURITY COUNCIL DECISIONS. POLMIN THOUGHT

JAPAN'S WILLINGNESS TO KEEP SECRETARIAT CONSULTATIONS ON INFORMAL, BILATERAL BASIS WOULD HELP ALLAY THESE CONCERNS, BUT THE BASIC PROBLEM SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND BY BOTH SIDES. HE ASSURED ONDA THAT WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS SOON AS INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. ONDA EMPHASIZED THAT TOKYO HAD NO INTENTION OF CHALLENGING THE CONCEPT POLMIN HAD MENTIONED. IT SIMPLY FELT THAT JAPAN, IN LIGHT OF ITS POSITION, SHOULD BE CONSULTED BY THE SECRETARIAT ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, IN PARTICULAR ON FINANCING BUT ALSO ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL ASPECTS OF SUCH MAJOR PROJECTS.

3. POLMIN ALSO NOTED THAT WE WERE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO APPROACH THE UN PRIOR TO AN APPROACH BY JAPAN ITSELF, SINCE WE WOULD NOT WISH IT TO APPEAR IN ANY WAY THAT WE WERE ACTING FOR A "CLIENT STATE". JAPAN, OF COURSE, IS PERFECTLY COMPETENT TO CARRY ITS OWN FREIGHT. HE NOW UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT JUN HAD IN FACT DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH USYG GUYER, WHO HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH JAPAN ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. ONDA NOTED THAT JUN HAD ALSO FOLLOWED UP THE GUYER APPROACH WITH A NUMBER OF INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH KEY SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, ALL OF WHOM HAD REACTED POSITIVELY. ANY APPROACH USUN MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE TO THE SECRETARIAT WOULD THEREFORE BE IN SUPPORT OF A JAPANESE INITIATIVE.

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03211 162329Z

4. CONCERNING USUN-JUN CONTACTS, POLMIN NOTED THERE WERE VARIOUS WAYS THESE COULD BE REGULARIZED OR PLACED ON MORE FORMAL BASIS. HE WAS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THEM, HOWEVER, SINCE THIS COULD BE A BURDEN TO BOTH MISSIONS AND WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF CONTACT ALREADY TAKING PLACE, WHICH IS CONSIDERABLE. CITING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EC-9 PRESIDENCY HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE ONE OFFICER IN EACH MISSION DESIGNATED AS THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF CONTACT. THESE OFFICERS COULD COORDINATE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO MISSIONS AND ENSURE THAT THERE WAS A REGULAR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL SUBJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST. ONDA AGREED THAT FORMAL INSTITUTIONALIZATION WAS NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD IDEA AND THOUGHT THE IDEA OF DESIGNATING OFFICERS IN EACH MISSION A GOOD ONE.

5. POLMIN ASKED ONDA ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN THE NAMIBIA PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. ONDA SAID THAT NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE, BUT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT FIN MIN OPPOSITION WOULD

MEAN A CONTRIBUTION OF PERHAPS NO MORE THAN 10
CIVILIANS AND AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$2 OR \$3
MILLION OVER JAPAN'S REGULAR NATIONAL ASSESSMENT. THE
FON OFF, OR COURSE, IS STILL DRIVING FOR MUCH MORE THAN
THIS. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL EVEN IF JAPAN'S
PARTICIPATION WERE ONLY SYMBOLIC, IF IT WAS
SUCCESSFUL IN NAMIBIA, HE HOPED JAPAN COULD DO MORE IN
THE FUTURE. LEONARD

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